

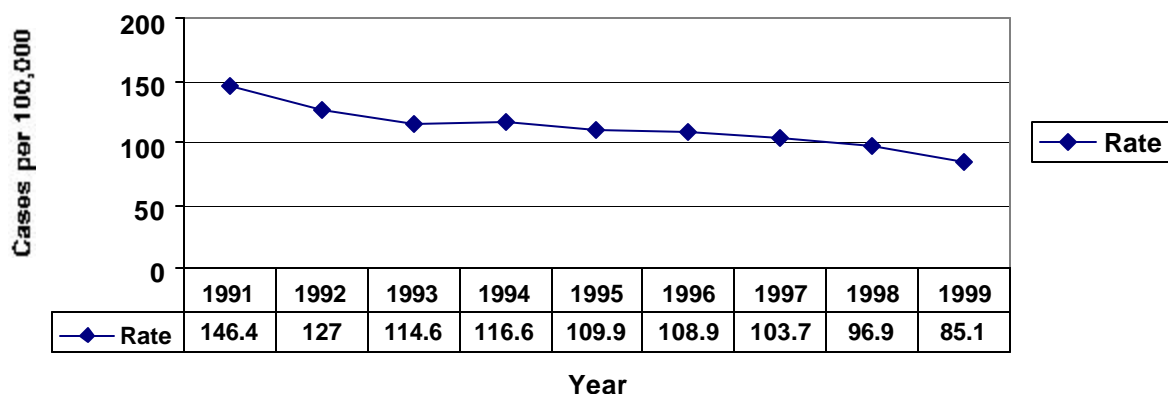
# GONORRHEA

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted bacterial disease (STD) caused by *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. In males, it is usually characterized by a purulent urethral discharge and dysuria. In females, initially there is a urethritis or cervicitis often so mild it may pass unnoticed. Depending upon sexual practices, pharyngeal and anorectal infections can occur. In males, the urethral infection is usually self-limiting; however, it may progress to epididymitis, and in rare cases, it can disseminate into an arthritis-dermatitis syndrome, endocarditis, and meningitis. Twenty percent of women infected with gonorrhea may progress to uterine infection, which may lead to endometritis or salpingitis (PID-Pelvic Inflammatory Disease) and the subsequent risk of infertility.

## Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

- Isolation of typical Gram-negative, oxidase-positive diplococci (presumptive *N. gonorrhoeae*) from clinical specimen, **OR**
- Demonstration of *N. gonorrhoeae* in a clinical specimen by detection of antigen or nucleic acid, **OR**
- Observation of Gram-negative intracellular diplococci in a urethral smear from a man.

## Gonorrhea Incidence, Kentucky 1991-1999



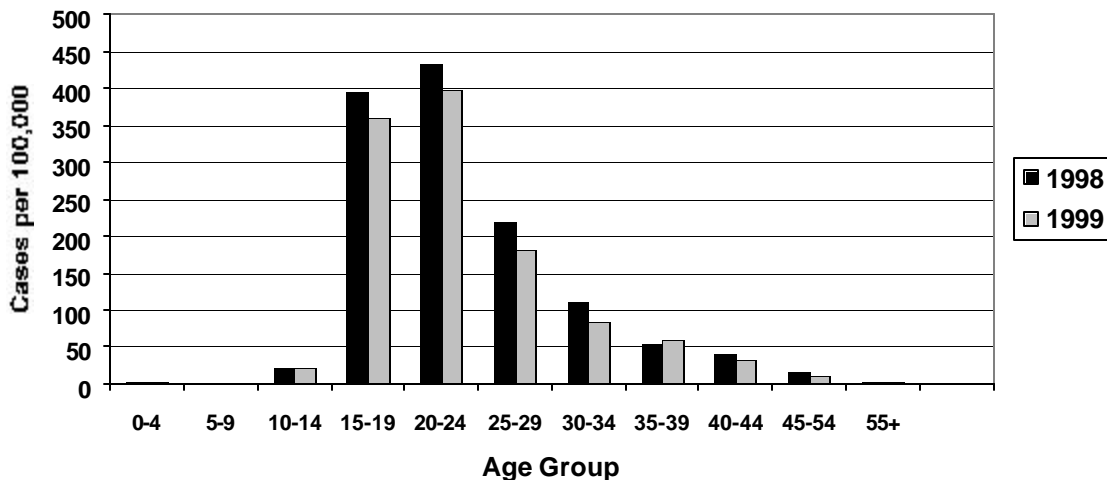
Reported cases of gonorrhea continue to show a decline in numbers.

	1998	1999
Number of Cases	3813	3349
Rate per 100,000	96.9	85.1
Rate by Gender (per 100,000)		
Female	93.6	80.3
Male	100.4	87.4
Rate by Race (per 100,000)		
White	25.3	23.1
Black	759.5	650.0

Race was not specified on 18% of the reports in 1998 and on 16.5% of the reports in 1999.

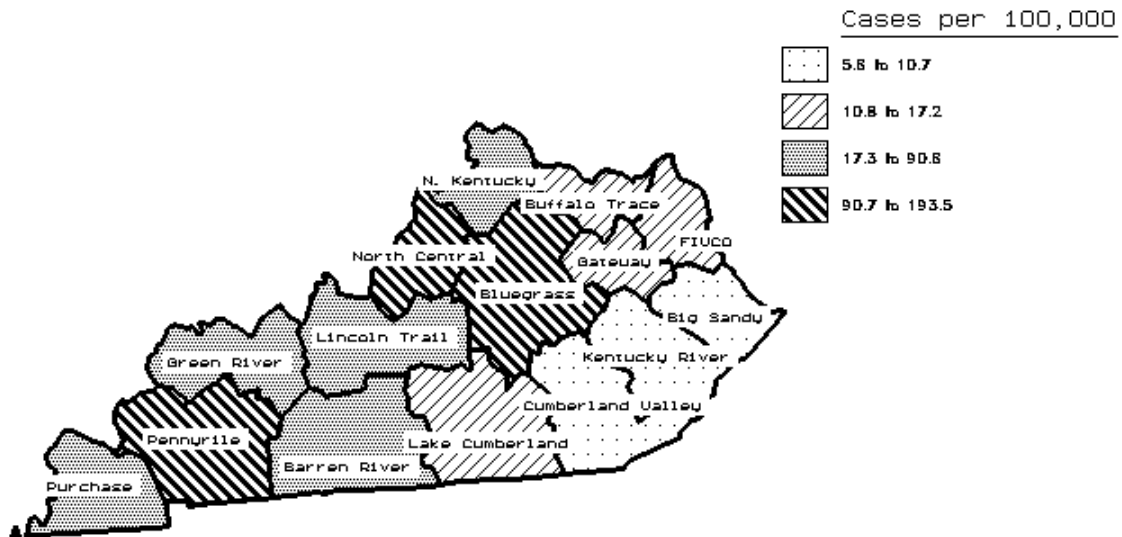
Other races were indicated on 1.2% of the reports in 1998 and on 2.0% of the reports in 1999.

### Gonorrhea, Age-Specific Incidence, Kentucky 1998-1999



The 20-24 year age group reported the highest number of cases in 1998 and 1999, followed by the 15-19 year age group.

## Gonorrhea by District, Kentucky Average Annual Incidence, 1998-1999



The highest reported incidence occurred in the Pennyryle District (193.5 cases per 100,000), followed by the North Central District (166.8 cases per 100,000).

District	Average Annual Rate
Purchase	90.6
Pennyryle	193.5
Green River	76.4
Barren River	82.4
Lincoln Trail	67.2
North Central	166.8
Northern Kentucky	70.1
Buffalo Trace	12.7
Gateway	17.1
Fiveco	14.7
Big Sandy	6.4
Kentucky River	5.6
Cumberland Valley	10.7
Lake Cumberland	17.2
Bluegrass	107.4